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GUEVARA'S TWO FINGERS

SANTIAGO CHILE INTERPRESS IN SPANISH 1945 GMT 18 OCT 67 C

(BY ROGELIO GARCIA LUPO)

(SUMMARY) BUENOS AIRES--"GENERAL OVANDO LIES WHEN HE SAYS THAT CHE'S BODY WAS CREMATED, BUT HE TELLS THE TRUTH WHEN HE SAYS THAT HE CAN SHOW ONLY TWO FINGERS FROM THE BODY. ERNESTO GUEVARA'S BODY WAS SENT SECRETLY TO A CIA BASE IN THE UNITED STATES WHERE BODIES FROM VIETNAM ARE SENT AS A MATTER OF ROUTINE."

"DESPITE OPINIONS TO THE CONTRARY, CERTAIN MILITARY SOURCES BELIEVE THAT THE CIA WAS AWARE OF GUEVARA'S MOVEMENTS IN BOLIVIA FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. THIS ASSUMPTION IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT 12 CUBANS WHO JOINED GUEVARA IN BOLIVIA WERE ALREADY KNOWN TO THE CIA, EITHER BECAUSE THEY HAD ACCOMPANIED HIM ON OFFICIAL TRIPS OUTSIDE CUBA OR BECAUSE THEY HAD HELD GOVERNMENT OR POLITICAL POSTS. BESIDES, IT IS KNOWN THAT THE CIA CAREFULLY LISTS LATIN AMERICAN PASSENGERS PASSING THROUGH ALL WORLD AIRPORTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN MEXICO, MADRID, PRAGUE, AND OTHERS CONSIDERED CLASSICAL ESCAPE POINTS."

"A REUTERS CORRESPONDENT IN VALLEGRANDE ON 10 OCTOBER GAVE THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO DATE REGARDING THE INTERVENTION OF THE CIA IN THIS MATTER. ACCORDING TO THE CORRESPONDENT, A ROBUST AND BALD MAN OF ABOUT 30 WHO, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT WEAR A MILITARY EMBLEM OF ANY KIND, SEEMED TO BE IN CHARGE OF THE SITUATION. HE HAD ACCOMPANIED GUEVARA'S BODY, IT WAS LEARNED LATER. NO ONE KNEW THE MAN, BUT RUMOR HAD IT THAT HE WAS A CUBAN EXILE WHO WORKED WITH THE CIA AND WHOSE SURNAME WAS RAMOS. WHEN THE VEHICLE ARRIVED AT THE MORGUE, RAMOS ALIGHTED AND SAID IN ENGLISH: "LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!" THIS ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF THE CORRESPONDENT, AND HE DEDUCED THAT THE MAN WAS ENGLISH-SPEAKING BECAUSE OF HIS PRONUNCIATION, ALTHOUGH RAMOS LATER PRETENDED HE KNEW NO ENGLISH."

RAMOS HELPED SOME DOCTORS EMBALM THE BODY. THIS WAS DONE IN THE PRESENCE OF MANY WITNESSES. HOWEVER, ON THE FOLLOWING DAY THE BOLIVIAN MILITARY BEGAN TO PRODUCE CONTRADICTIONARY STORES REGARDING THE BODY. IT IS VERY STRANGE THAT THE BODY WOULD BE EMBALMED JUST TO BE BURNED. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT SOME MEMBERS OF U.S. POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE WERE CONVINCED THAT GUEVARA HAD BEEN KILLED BY CASTRO. THE CIA NEEDED TO HAVE GUEVARA'S BODY FOR VERIFICATION. THE BOLIVIAN GENERALS HAD TO BE CONTENT WITH TWO FINGERS, SOME PHOTOGRAPHS, AND A WAR DIARY.

"TO THE BOLIVIANS, WHO BELIEVE THEY CAUGHT THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THE LATIN AMERICAN GUERRILLAS, THE MATTER IS ABOUT TO END; TO CIA SPECIALISTS THERE WILL BE AN INTERNAL QUARREL WHICH WILL LEAD TO SOME DISCREET RESIGNATIONS WITHIN A FEW MONTHS. THE U.S. ESPIONAGE CHIEF WHO A YEAR OR TWO AGO PROVED THAT CHE GUEVARA WAS DEAD UNDOUBTEDLY WILL LOSE HIS POST. SOMEONE WILL CERTAINLY ASK HIM TO RESIGN."